

From: James Dillon
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:35pm
Subject: Proposed Microsoft Anti-Trust case settelment

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a working computer professional and have been for 20 years. I have seen the rise of Microsoft from a small company in the 80's to the giant it is today.

Most of their products, while adequate, are by no means the state of the art, or very secure. I have witnessed the way they obscure details and modify code to prevent competing programs from performing correctly. I have seen this from the 80's (DR-DOS) to the early 90's (WordPerfect, Novell) and in the mid 90's with Netscape (Navigator) and Sun Microsystems (Java).

The original settlement would split Microsoft into two separate companies. While that would be good, I would prefer to see it split into three separate companies: one for Operating Systems, one for Applications, and the other for Programming Tools. I also believe the undocumented Microsoft API's must be published. Document file formats (DOC, XLS, ect.) must be standardized. Internet protocols (TCP/IP) must remain open and un-modified.

The true sprit of open competition and fair play demands a honest evaluation of the proposed settlement. I believe it does little to curb Microsoft's monopoly actions, much as the consent decree did in the 90's. The American public needs a strong and intelligent DOJ to truly level the competitive playing field.

The current proposed settlement is bad for a number of reasons: It does not redress the past anti-competitive actions of Microsoft, it does little to prevent them from doing it again, and will ultimately allow them to further their stranglehold on the information economy.

Sincerely Yours,

James Patrick Dillon
850 Rosdale #59
Capitola CA 95010